ponds at Jaduguda are not contaminated due to the operation of Uranium mine and mill of Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. at Jaduguda. The waste produced in the operation of the mine and mill is well contained and the effluent is recycled and re-treated in the effluent treatment plant before any discharge. There is no spread of radioactivity into the environment UCIL monitors any effect of radioactivity on the employees and its effect in the area around the Uranium mine and mill at Jaduguda. An Environmental Survey laboratory of Health Physics Unit of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is functioning in Jaduguda since the inception of the company. Scientists of this laboratory collect various samples of soil/water on a continuous basis and measure the radioactivity level. They also continuously measure natural background radiation level at different locations over a radius of around 35 Km. taking Jaduguda as a centre. In all 30 locations are covered. All the data indicate that the radiation level at Jaduguda is in the same range as at the other locations around this area.

AERB report on Kaiga Nuclear plant Accident

1482. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of the Atomic energy Regulatory Board (AERB) on investigations into the collapse of a concrete dome at the Kaiga Atomic Power Plant in May last year;

(b) if so, what are its findings and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken to countenance such situation arising in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The final report of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board on investigation into the incident of delamination of a portion of inner containment dome at the Kaiga Atomic Power Project in May, 1994 is yet to be received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. has taken up re-engineering and rehabilitation of the dome taking into consideration all probable factors. The recommendations of the investigating Committees will be taken into account before finalising the reconstruction of the Kaiga-1 dome and also in subsequent units.

Food irradiation technology

1483. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has embarked on an abmitious programme to promote food irradiation technology on a large scale;

(b) if so, broad features of this programme and the food products which it will cover; and

(c) in what manner it is proposed to commercialise this technology within the country and for export purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Department of Atomic Energy is cooperating with industries in the commercial exploitation of food irradiation technology which is available with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy.

(b) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, framed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, have been amended to permit sale of irradiated onions, potatoes and spices

in the Country. The Atomic Energy (Control of Irradiation of Food) Rules, 1990, have also been framed under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, to regulate through licensing, periodic inspection, etc., the irradiation of food articles. It is proposed to set up three pilot scale irradiation facilities which would be located in Uttar Pradesh (UP). West Bengal and Maharashtra for the irradiation of potatoes and onions.

(c) It is proposed to set up a commercial irradiator in Vashi, New Bombay, to treat 20,000 tonnes of spices annually. Arrangements are being worked out to irradiate spices and sell the irradiated products through the retail stores in Bombay of the Apna Bazar Cooperative Departmental Stores which is a unit of the Mumbi Kamgar Madhywarti Grahak Sahakari Mandal Ltd. The export market can be considered only after the irradiated products are sold in the domestic market as per the conditions imposed by some of the importing countries. A priority item is the export of irradiated spices.

Protest against the construction of Kaiga nuclear plant

1484. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kaiga Atomic Power Project has been languishing and the residents have protested for the laying of the foundation of the first tower.

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to review its stand on Kaiga Atomic Power Project in view of great resentment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Construction work on the Kaiga Power Plant which commenced in 1988, is progressing. There were some petitions against the project. The petitions have been replied to. There is no proposal with the Government for reviewing its stand on the project.

Diploma in radiation medicines

1485. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of doctors trained so far by BARC Bombay and Institute of Nuclear Medicines Delhi for Diploma in Radiation Medicine;

(b) what is the amount spent thereon by the Department of Atomic Energy;

(c) whether any conditions are imposed by Government while incurring expenditure on their studies; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and in how many cases the said conditions were flouted by the individuals and what penalty was imposed on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) 154 Doctors have been trained so far at the Radiation Medicine Centre of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Bombay and awarded a Diploma in Radiation Medicine and 60 Doctors have been trained so far by the Institute of Nuclear Medicines and Allied Sciences, New Delhi, for Diploma in Radiation Medicine under the aegis of the Delhi University.

(b) The amount spent by the Department of Atomic Energy (BARC) towards the training programme is approximately Rs. 5.52 lakh per year.

(c) and (d) Under the terms and conditions prescribed by BARC for the training course, if a student fails to complete the course, the stipend paid for the entire 12 months period has to be refunded to the BARC. A bond to this effect is taken from each student before admission to the course. However, there has been no such instance